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New school playground soon to open at Hadfield

Fire destroyed it a year ago

A brand new playground has risen from the ashes at Chris Hadfield Public School.

It was a year ago that the Woodward Avenue school's play structure burned to the ground and the JK to Grade 8 students were minus a very popular recess destination.

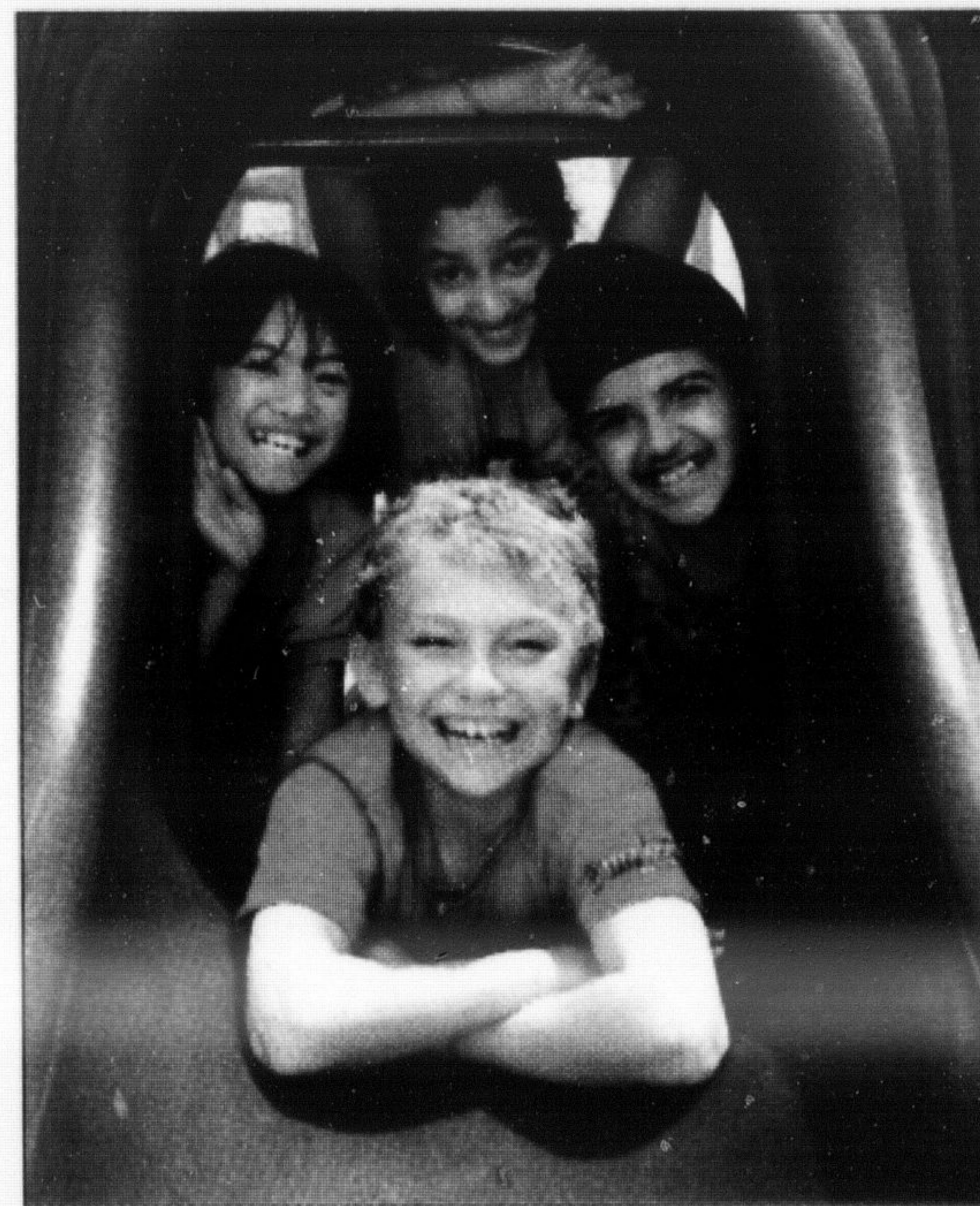
Arson was never confirmed, says Nicole Currie, chair of the school's parent council, but whatever the cause, the objective was always to replace the six-year-old structure, which is set to open soon.

Between paperwork and meetings, the process took a full year, but the actual construction and installation, less than two weeks, says Currie.

Working within the \$55,000 insurance replacement value, the result isn't only a custom-built configuration to meet the needs of all students, but unique to Milton, says Currie.

"We have moved it closer to the school, for safety reasons but also for accessibility," she says. "We have several kids in wheelchairs. And for kids who are developing their mobility, they can get up on the structure. There are safety handles. It's meant for everybody."

And as Chris Hadfield is



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Clockwise from front, Grade 4 Chris Hadfield School students Trevor Harris, Nicole Alinsod, Isra Wasim and Gurprakash Singh can't wait to try out the new playground slides.

an eco-friendly school, the committee chose to reflect that philosophy in the playground colors of blue, green and beige, she says.

"And there are panels related to the space theme," comments Currie in reference to the school's namesake. "It's a blending of these elements, earth, land and sea and space."

New are the spinning monkey bars and stand-alone spinning components,

she says.

"The kids will love it. It really meets all of the school's needs. It's close to the school and there are cameras on it."

Currie credits principal Sean Marks for assisting the committee through the entire process.

"He's been so great at getting this done. There were endless, endless meetings and it was a big extra load for a principal."

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